### Isaiah

## Chapter 40

1‘Take comfort, take comfort, My people,’  
 Says [Jehovah], Your God.  
 2O Priests, you must speak and bring comfort  
 To JeruSalem’s heart.  
  
For the humbling of her has now been fulfilled,  
 And all of her sins are untied.  
 Yet, it was because of her sins  
 That she received twice as much from His hand.  
  
  
3Then I heard a voice that was calling from the desert. It said:  
  
 ‘Prepare the way for the Lord…  
 Straighten the roads for our God!  
 4Fill the valleys and flatten the mountains and hills…  
 All crooked paths must be straightened  
 And the ruts in the fields must be smoothed!  
 5Then the glory and salvation of God will be seen;  
 For Jehovah has told you to do this.’  
  
6Then the voice again shouted:  
  
 ‘Now, yell!’  
  
And I asked:  
  
 ‘What should I yell?’  
  
[And it replied:]  
  
 ‘Yell that all flesh is just grass  
 And man’s glory is like the flowers of grass.  
 7But now, the grass has all dried,  
 And all of their flowers have dropped;  
 For upon them, God has blown His Breath.  
  
 ‘The people are really the grass…  
 8And although grass may dry and its flowers may drop;  
 God’s Word endures throughout the ages.  
  
 9‘So, climb to the top of that mountain,  
 O you who are bringing good news to Zion,  
 And shout it as loud as you can!  
 Yes, those bringing good news to JeruSalem  
 Must shout it out loud and not be afraid!  
  
 ‘To the cities of Judah, you must shout this:  
  
 ‘Look and see… For here comes Your God!  
 10Your Lord, Jehovah, is coming in strength,  
 And to conquer, His arm has been raised!  
  
 ‘Look… He’s bringing the wages  
 For the things being done here before Him!  
 11Like a shepherd, He’s arrived to tend to His flock;  
 Then He’ll gather His lambs in His arms,  
 And within His womb, bring them comfort.’  
  
 12‘Who can measure all the water in the skies  
 With just the span of His hand,  
 And who holds the whole earth as a handful?  
 Who established the weight of the mountains,  
 And weighs the forests in the yoke of a scale?  
  
 13‘Who knows the mind of Jehovah…  
 Who has become His advisor  
 And who can give Him instructions?  
 14Whom has He asked for advice,  
 And who’s told Him the things He should do?  
  
 ‘Who taught Him how to be just,  
 Or shown Him the right ways to think?  
 15For the nations are like drops from a bucket  
 That are [weighed] in the yoke on a scale  
 And found to be [no more than] spit.  
  
 16‘To Him, all of Lebanon is unfit to burn,  
 And unfit for sacrifice are its four-footed beasts.  
 17Before Him, the nations are also unfit…  
 For He views them as nothing at all.  
  
 18‘To whom can our Lord be compared?  
 How would you [make an image] of Him?  
 19Aren’t statues created by [artists]…  
 Aren’t they each carefully designed,  
 Then cast and gilded by smiths?  
  
 20‘Doesn’t the maker choose durable wood,  
 And wisely choose the best place  
 To stand it where it cannot fall?  
  
 21‘Don’t you know, and haven’t you heard…  
 Weren’t you told this from the beginning…  
 Do you know how the earth was established?  
  
 22He’s the One who holds fast the curve of the earth,  
 And those dwelling upon it are like locusts.  
 He’s the One who established the skies like a veil,  
 And stretched it like a tent in which we can dwell.  
 23Then He made our rulers from nothing,  
 And from nothing, He brought forth their lands.  
  
 24‘[Without Him], we can’t plant or sow,  
 Nor can plants spread their roots in the ground.  
 For, He can just breathe and they’ll wither…  
 With a blast, like twigs, they’ll just blow away.  
  
 25‘And this Most Holy One is asking you this:  
  
 ‘Whom can you liken to Me…  
 Can you make Me look more important?  
 26Look high in the sky [and then tell Me]  
 Who introduced all these things?’  
  
 ‘He’s the One who assembled them all…  
 All the things within His arrangement!  
 Then, in His great glory and strength,  
 He named it before you had seen it!  
  
 27‘Would you dare to say before Jacob:  
  
 O IsraEl, why have you spoken to me,  
 For my ways have been hidden from God,  
 So I won’t stand in judgment before Him?  
  
 28‘Don’t you know… Yes, haven’t you heard?  
 God [exists] throughout the ages!  
 He’s the One who prepared the ends of the earth,  
 Yet He doesn’t get hungry or tired,  
 Nor can His wisdom be fathomed.  
  
 29‘He’s the One who gives strength to the famished,  
 And brings comfort to those who are grieving.  
  
 30‘While the youngest of men will get hungry and tired,  
 And the best of men will lose all their strength;  
 31Those who wait on Jehovah will grow stronger,  
 And like eagles, they will grow wings.  
 Then they’ll run without getting tired…  
 They’ll keep going without getting hungry.’